

Year in Review

Information for this chronology was taken from *Soldiers* magazine, the Army News Service, the American Forces Press Service and other official news sources.

January 2004

Jan. 3

The U.S. Army All-American Bowl in San Antonio, Texas, brings together the top 78 high school football players in the annual East vs. West all-star game sponsored by Army Accessions Command.

Jan. 7

Officials announce that the latest Stop-Loss initiative will affect approximately 7,000 Soldiers serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Soldiers will be required to remain with their units during the deployment process.

Jan. 7

Family and friends gather to welcome home the first of 18,000 101st Airborne Division Soldiers redeploying from Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Jan. 8

A plaque honoring LTC Kim Orlando is placed in the FBI Academy's Martyr's Wall in the Hall of Honor. An academy graduate and former commander of the 716th Military Police Battalion, Orlando was killed in Karbala, Iraq.

Jan. 11

Khamis Sirhan al-Muhammad, former Ba'ath Party regional chairman for the Karbala government is captured. He was number 54 of Iraq's 55 most-wanted fugitives.

Jan. 20

The Shadow unmanned aerial vehicle is deployed to Iraq to assist with gathering intelligence information from high altitudes.



Jan. 22

Elements of the 101st Airborne Division hand over control of the Tigris River Valley area of northern Iraq to Stryker-equipped elements of the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Div.

February 2004

Feb. 4

Soldiers of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit at Fort Benning, Ga., travel to Iraq to teach other Soldiers marksmanship techniques.

Feb. 5

The Army safety campaign begins.

Feb. 8

SPC Emilee Pardo, Soldier of the year for the 25th Inf. Div., is chosen as part of a joint force to participate in Pro Bowl activities at Aloha Stadium in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Feb. 8

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service continues to serve Soldiers deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom by opening a new exchange at Forward Operating Base Ironhorse in Tikrit, Iraq.

Feb. 12

SPC Ryan Anderson, a member of the Washington National Guard's 81st Armored Bde., is apprehended on charges of attempting to aid the al-Qaeda terrorist network.

Feb. 17

All Soldiers are directed to wear the U.S. flag on the right shoulder of their utility uniforms.



Feb. 26

Defense officials announce the criteria for the award of the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.



March 2004

March 4

SGT Hasan Akbar, who is accused of premeditated murder and attempted premeditated murder, goes before a general court martial for a grenade attack in Kuwait that killed two Soldiers and wounded 14 others.

March 12

The Department of the Army announces a new program called Assignment Incentive Pay to encourage Soldiers to extend their tours in Korea.

March 12

At a Pentagon ceremony MSG Dennis Woods of the XVIII Abn. Corps at Fort Bragg, N.C., and 45 civilian employees receive the Presidential Rank award for exceptional long-term accomplishments.

March 18

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service opens "Reel Time," its first movie theater in Balad, Iraq.

March 19

A ceremony in Heidelberg, Germany, marks the return of V Corps Soldiers after their yearlong deployment to Southwest Asia.

March 19

Fort Lee, Va., officials dedicate a new public affairs building to NBC News correspondent David Bloom, who died in April 2003 of a pulmonary embolism while embedded with the 3rd Inf. Div. in Iraq.

March 20

Six Soldiers are accused of detainee abuse at the U.S.-run Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq. The charges result after a January probe into inappropriate treatment of prisoners at the facility.

March 26

The Army's first "unit of action" begins field testing the new brigade structure at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

March 31

The Shades of Green Armed Forces Recreation Center hotel at Walt Disney World Resort in Florida celebrates the opening of a new wing.

April 2004

April 1

The Baghdad International Police Academy graduates its second class of students. Instructors from the United States, other coalition countries and Iraq taught students the basics of police paperwork, search techniques and traffic control.

April 7

SSG Shon Lewis is named the Greco-Roman coach of the year for the second consecutive year by USA Wrestling.

April 12

Golfer Tiger Woods trains for a week with the U.S. Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg.

April 17

The Army announces a partnership with the Professional Bull Riders Association to assist in Army recruiting efforts.

April 17

Soldiers from Company B, 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, "The Old Guard," help distribute relief supplies after storms cause flooding near Camp Lemonier, Djibouti.

April 25

SSG Colin Boley of 3rd Bn., 75th Ranger Regiment, and SSG Adam Nash of the regiment's Headquarters and HQs. Co., earn Best Ranger titles.



April 30

The Disabled Soldier Support System is announced as a way to help wounded Soldiers receive the help and information they need until they can return to active duty, receive a medical retirement or be medically discharged.

April 30

The 2004 U.S. Army Soldier Show begins its season at Fort Belvoir, Va., with the production "The Heart of a Soldier."

May 2004



May 3

MAJ David Johnson, a Reservist with the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program at Fort Carson, Colo., is selected to be the rifle coach for Team USA at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece.

May 5

Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., are honored as the 2004 Chief of Staff of the Army Communities of Excellence Award winners.

May 6

MAJ Shane Kimbrough is one of 11 candidates, including three other service members, selected by NASA to become the next generation of space explorers.



May 6

Army special-operations forces receive their first MH-47G Chinook helicopter during a rollout ceremony at the Boeing Helicopters compound in Ridley Park, Pa.



May 15

Combined Joint Task Force-7 inactivates and two new commands, Multi-National Force Iraq and Multi-National Corps Iraq, are activated.

May 17

Active-duty and National Guard military police units that served as part of Operation Noble Eagle are recognized during a "mission complete" and demobilization ceremony at the Pentagon.

Year in Review

May 2004

May 19

SPC Jeremy Sivits is sentenced to one year in confinement, a bad conduct discharge and reduction in rank to private in connection with the Abu Ghraib prison abuse investigation.

May 20

SGT Jarval Davis, SSG Ivan Frederick II and SPC Charles Graner are arraigned on charges in connection with events at Abu Ghraib.

May 29

President George W. Bush dedicates the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., during a ceremony attended by some 100,000 people.



June 2004

June 5

Former President Ronald Reagan dies. The Military District of Washington begins preparations for the state funeral to be held in Washington, D.C.

June 6

President Bush honors the thousands of Soldiers who died during the Normandy invasion in 1944, by speaking at the American Cemetery in Normandy.

June 8

Georgia Army National Guard BG Terry Nesbitt becomes the first National Guard general to command a joint force during the Group of Eight Summit at St. Simons Island, Ga.

June 13

Former President George H.W. Bush celebrates his 80th birthday by making a tandem parachute jump with the U.S. Army Golden Knights parachute demonstration team.

June 14

On the Army's 229th birthday senior leaders introduce the Army combat uniform. The new uniform will be fielded and tested by Stryker brigade Soldiers and will be issued beginning in April 2005.

June 18

SSG Jason Maynard of the 1st Battalion, 40th Field Artillery, at Fort Sill, Okla., and SFC Jennifer Fowler of the 95th Division, Oklahoma City, Okla., are selected as the active and Reserve drill sergeants of the year.

June 21

SGT Johnnie Williams wins a gold medal in weightlifting at the 24th National Veterans Wheelchair Games. Williams lost the use of his legs during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

June 26

Taliban leaders Abdul Hafiz Majid and Mohammed Daud surrender to coalition forces during a pre-dawn raid in southern Afghanistan.

June 29

Infantrymen of the 2nd Bn., 5th Infantry Regiment, 25th Inf. Division, join forces with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit during combat operations in central Afghanistan.

June 30

The Army announces plans to order 5,600 Soldiers in the Individual Ready Reserve to active duty for possible deployment.

July 2004

July 2

GEN Richard Cody is sworn in as the 31st Army vice chief of staff.



July 4

Members of the 3rd U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard) Fife and Drum Corps and Continental Color Guard participate in the "Let Freedom Ring" celebration in Philadelphia, Pa., for the first time in the celebration's 38-year history.

July 4

Task Force 1st Armored Div. cases the colors representing the units that have served in Iraq in preparation for the units' departure from the area of operations.



July 9

Warrant officers across the Army remove their "eagle rising" insignia and replace it with the insignia of the branch they serve. Chief warrant officer 5 rank is also replaced with a new rank insignia.



July 9

SSG Clay Usie of the Army Recruiting Battalion in New Orleans, La., is recognized as the Army Times Soldier of the year.



July 9

Oregon National Guard CPT Dan Browne places third in the 10,000-meter race during the 2004 U.S. Olympic Track and Field time trials, earning himself a spot on the 2004 Olympic team.

July 10

The 1st Inf. Div. hosts a ceremony for graduates of the Iraqi National Guard's first basic training class.

July 17

SGT John Nunn, a member of the U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program at Fort Carson, Colo., earns a spot on the 2004 U.S. Olympic Team after finishing second in the 20-kilometer race walk at the Olympic Track and Field trials.

July 18

The National Guard's Texas-based 49th Armd. Div. is reflagged as the 36th Infantry Division.



July 20

Soldiers from the 7th Army Reserve Command and five other Reserve units participate in an international military exercise with Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania.

July 21

The Army News Service celebrates 60 years of reporting the news from the frontlines to an Armywide audience.

July 21

Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne, from the MTV show "The Osbournes," visit with wounded Soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

July 26

COL Gale Pollock is promoted two grades to major general to become the newest chief of the Army Nurse Corps.



August 2004

Aug 3

The Army authorizes a new sapper tab for qualified combat engineers.



Aug 5

Determined Promise 2004, a U.S. Northern Command exercise, tests a new Joint Operations Center and Mobile Command Center within the National Capital Region to network military personnel in the area with the homeland-defense structure.

Aug 10

Units from the 2nd Bde., 2nd Inf. Div., in Korea begin deploying to Iraq.



Aug 12

Former Navy intelligence specialist George D.L. Banks becomes the Army's first "Operation Blue to Green" recruit. The program offers Air Force and Navy personnel the chance to transfer to the Army and retain their previous pay grades.

Aug 17

Michael Weisskopf, a senior correspondent with Time Magazine, is awarded the Fourth Estate Award by BG Robert Gaylord, chief of Army public affairs. Weisskopf lost his right hand in a grenade attack while on patrol with Soldiers in Iraq.

Aug 18

Iraq's first new electricity generator since 1976 goes on line in the southern part of the country, supplying electricity to 120,000 homes.



Aug 22

MAJ Michael Anti, assigned to the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit at Fort Benning, Ga., wins the silver medal in the men's 50-meter three-position-rifle event during the 2004 Summer Olympic Games.

Year in Review

September 2004

Sept. 2

BG Rebecca S. Halstead, the first female graduate of West Point to be promoted to general officer, assumes command of V Corps' 3rd Corps Support Command.



Sept. 6

Tony "the Sarge" Schumacher captures the NHRA Top-Fuel class in the U.S. Army dragster, and Antron Brown, U.S. Army Pro Stock Bike driver, wins the U.S. National title during the Mac Tools U.S. Nationals at Indianapolis Raceway Park.

Sept. 10

In the chapel that was built at the site where American Airlines Flight 77 plowed into the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001, employees remembered friends who perished in the attack.

Sept. 11

SGT Charles Jenkins voluntarily returns to U.S. control by reporting to the Camp Zama, Japan, provost marshal 39 years after allegedly leaving his post in South Korea for a life in North Korea.

Sept. 11

SPC Armin D. Cruz is sentenced to reduction in grade to private, eight months confinement and a bad-conduct discharge after being found guilty of detainee abuse in Baghdad, Iraq.

Sept. 14

U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye joins other veterans during a Pentagon observance of National POW/MIA Recognition Day.



Sept. 15

Members of the 1st Cavalry Division's 91st Engineer Battalion help facilitate the release of about 200 former Abu Ghraib prisoners.

Sept. 16

The Army's first air and missile defense command and control detachment is activated by the 1st Armored Division at McCully Barracks, Wiesbaden, Germany.

Sept. 16

First U.S. Army activates its crisis action team to support areas hard hit by Hurricane Ivan.



Sept. 17

SSG Andrew Bullock of the 5th Ranger Training Battalion at Fort Benning, Ga., is named the Army Noncommissioned Officer of the Year during a ceremony at Fort Lee, Va. SPC Wilfredo Mendez of Company A, 3rd Military Intelligence Bn., at Camp Humphreys, Korea, is named the Soldier of the Year.

Sept. 22

Teen and preteen fifers and drummers share the stage with the U.S. Army Fife and Drum Corps during the annual "Spirit of America" show.

Sept. 24

Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi talks with Soldiers and spouses during his visit to the United States, thanking them for their hard work and sacrifices in the defense of freedom.

Sept. 26

More than 1,300 Army Corps of Engineers employees continue to assist residents in Florida, Alabama and surrounding states after the states were hit by hurricanes Charley, Francis, Ivan and Jeanne.

Sept. 30

The first class of the Warrior Transition Course, which trains former Sailors and Airmen to be Soldiers, graduates at Fort Knox, Ky.

October 2004

Oct. 1

Ohio National Guard SGT Daniel Lee is sentenced to 30 years in prison at a Fort Knox, Ky., court martial for the October 2003 rape of a commissioned officer in a post barracks.

Oct. 1

The Army Continuing Education System's eArmyU program opens to all eligible active-duty enlisted Soldiers.

Oct. 5

The Army completes a weeklong demonstration project using a blimp and the Rapid Aerostat Initial Deployment System to test mobile aerial reconnaissance platforms.



Oct. 6

The creators of the video "The Army Campaign Plan: A Family Like No Other" are presented the Government Video Star Award during the Government Video Technology Expo.

Oct. 7

After a 15-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, 2,500 Soldiers with the 1st Armd. Div. are welcomed home to Wiesbaden.

Oct. 9

Afghanistan holds its first direct presidential election in 40 years.



Oct. 9

The Army Black Knights end a 19-game losing streak with a 48-29 victory over the University of Cincinnati.

Oct. 10

U.S. Army driver Joe Nemechek called it a dream weekend after winning the NASCAR Nextel Cup at Kansas Speedway. Not only did he capture his fourth career Cup, but he also took the pole for the 400-mile event and won the Anheuser-Busch Series.

Oct. 10

Drag racing superstar and Army driver Tony "The Sarge" Schumacher wins the National Hot Rod Association Top Fuel Championship, while NHRA Pro Stock bike racers Angelle Savoie and Antron Brown win first and second place, respectively, in their events.



Oct. 14

The Army Criminal Investigation Command finishes its probe into the deaths of two detainees while in U.S. custody in Afghanistan in December 2002. The report identifies 28 Soldiers with possible connections to the deaths.

Oct. 14

Army Vice Chief of Staff GEN Richard Cody enlists 14 recruits at Times Square in New York City to celebrate the 40th birthday of the U.S. Army Recruiting Command.

Oct. 15

The Army signs a partnership with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration in an ongoing effort to help reduce the number of accidents at Army installations.

Oct. 18

More than a dozen Army athletes joined their U.S. Olympic teammates at the White House for a personal "thank you" from President Bush.

Oct. 19

The 5th Psychological Operations Battalion becomes the newest addition to the 4th PSYOP Group, the Army's only active-duty PSYOP unit, during an activation ceremony at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Oct. 21

SSG Ivan L. Frederick is sentenced to eight years in prison after pleading guilty to eight charges involving mistreatment of detainees at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

Oct. 22

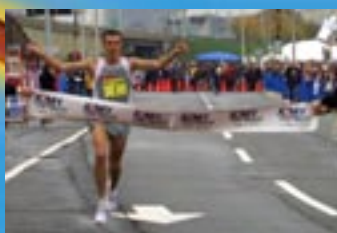
In Iraq, Soldiers from the 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, dismantle an insurgent cell operating in Al Rashid and detain 13 suspects.

Oct. 24

CPL Curtis Persinger of the 1103rd Military Police Battalion at Camp Babylon, Iraq, finishes first among 1,300 runners in the second annual Iraq 10-mile race.

Oct. 24

Oregon National Guard CPT Dan Browne set a new record of 47:44, finishing ahead of 13,000 runners during the Army Ten-Miler race in Washington, D.C.



Oct. 27

In recognition of the selfless and loyal service of those in uniform, the Association of the United States Army awards the 2004 George Catlett Marshall Medal to the "American Soldier."

Oct. 28

President Bush signs the National Defense Authorization Act raising the end strength of the Army and authorizing funding for a 3.5-percent, across-the-board pay raise for all service members.

Oct. 29

In response to an influenza-vaccine shortage the Army limits flu inoculations to Soldiers in Korea, those serving in U.S. Central Command's area of operations, initial-entry trainees and beneficiaries in medically high-risk categories.

November 2004

Nov. 2

The Holiday, Fla., post office is renamed for SFC Paul Ray Smith, who was killed in Iraq. Smith is nominated for the Medal of Honor for his actions.

Nov. 9

The U.S. Army Culinary Arts Team wins the gold medal in the table layout and hot food competition during the World Culinary Olympics in Germany.

Nov. 10

Multinational and Iraqi forces move into Fallujah, Iraq, in an effort to root out insurgent forces.

Nov. 19

Dr. Francis J. Harvey is sworn in as the 19th secretary of the Army. He succeeds Les Brownlee, who was acting secretary for the preceding 18 months.



December 2004

Dec. 15

The Department of the Army Career and Alumni Program begins implementing a Web-based application, ACAP XXI, for Soldiers separating from the military.